

STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES MAKES THEIR BUILDING AND FIRE CODE RECOMMENDATION TO THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

On Thursday, May 29, 2003 the State Board of Fire Services met to make their recommendation to the State Fire Marshal on the board's choice of building and fire code. The board's vote, on whether to adopt the NFPA or the ICC family of codes, was split with 12 board members voting for NFPA, one member against, one member abstaining, and the Chairman, John Tennant, State Fire Marshal removing himself from voting all together.

The anxious and packed meeting room of fire service professionals, building officials, and interested state agencies sat through presentations regarding the Strategic Plan for Fire Service Training and the Accreditation of Academies by Chief Art Cota, before they could get to the heart of the meeting- finding out which code the board has recommended. Both code groups were allowed to make presentations to the board. The public was also allowed to voice their opinions regarding the codes before the issue was brought to a motion.

The motion by the State Board of Fire Services, to recommend the NFPA family of codes, is the final step of the fact finding and decision making established by the State Fire Marshal. The first step included an analysis of both sets of codes by SFM staff and members of the California Fire Chiefs' Association's Fire Prevention Officers' Section. The second step included a review of the 595 page Code Comparison binder and a vote by the Fire and Life Safety Building Standards Advisory Board to recommend the NFPA family of codes. The process will be complete when the State Fire Marshal brings his final recommendation to the Code Change Committee of the State Building Standards Commission on Wednesday, June 11th, 2003.